

The Ties That Bind

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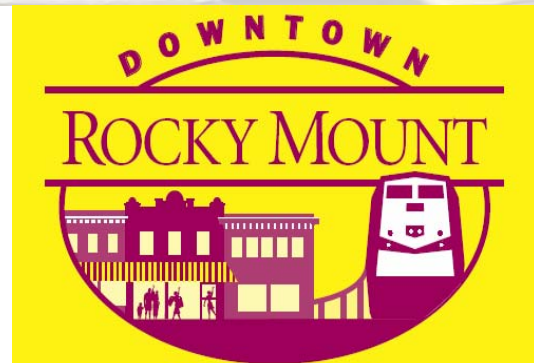
The Ties That Bind Fall 2005

Welcome to Downtown Rocky Mount. This is the Fall 2005 edition of the City's downtown letter. We have changed the name from *Downtown News* to *The Ties That Bind*.

There is a lot of momentum in Downtown Rocky Mount right now. My office is working closely with owners, merchants, other stakeholders and public officials to improve the Central City. If you want to receive this quarterly newsletter and other correspondence via e-mail or discuss anything with me, call or write me, my contact information is listed below. Thanks for supporting Downtown Rocky Mount.

Tan Kipp

City of Rocky Mount
Downtown Development Manager
Email: kipp@ci.rocky-mount.nc.us
Phone: 252-972-1267
Fax: 252-972-1173
<http://www.ci.rockymount.nc.us/downtown/main.html>



New Downtown Logo

The Downtown has its first ever logo. Produced by Graphic Artist Joel Melvin, the logo was officially unveiled in August. The logo depicts Main Street's period architecture. Capturing the vision of what was and what is to come, the logo depicts downtown shoppers, the friendly atmosphere and the value of tourism. See page 4 about T-shirts and key chains showcasing the new colorful logo.

Downtown Rocky Mount Awarded Over \$5,000,000

Downtown Rocky Mount will receive \$5,068,000 from the recent Federal Highway Bill. Congressman G.K. Butterfield secured the appropriation. The funds will be used over a six year period. There is a 20% local match meaning Rocky Mount will put in an additional \$1,013,600 for a total of \$6,081,600!

The **Down East Festival** occurred on Saturday, October 8. Although the morning was rainy and attendance was down, the sun came out in the afternoon for an enjoyable event. Special thanks to Debbie Julio, Special Events Coordinator, and all others who were involved for doing such a great job!

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Have you seen our newest restaurant? Check out this mural at 125 SE Main Street which was painted by local artist Jamil Barnes.
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Before and After



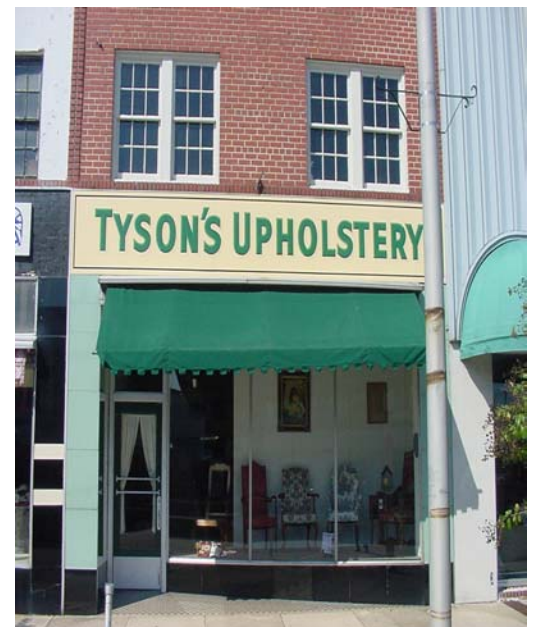
234 SW Main Street

The old Raper Drugs Building is receiving a gut renovation. To date, the upper front façade has received new windows, pointing and paint. Stay tuned for storefront façade renovations.



134 NW Main Street

Using the City's façade improvement grant, the owner installed a new sign and canopy, fixed and painted the upper story windows and replaced the Venetian glass that surround the storefront.





114 NW Main Street

The old Rocky Mount Floral Company received a meticulous preservation. Using the city façade improvement and the major impact grants, the owners restored the art deco façade and got a new retractable awning.



158 SW Main Street

In the past two years, this property shed its faceplate and received minor carpentry and painting. Now it is a fine looking, period façade, made complete with a phantom storefront coordinated by Tyson's Upholstery.



125 SE Main Street

Three years ago, this building was demolished, but the front façade was saved. The storefront area was spruced up in late 2004 by painter Darin Scott and carpenter David Weaver. The colorful mural was painted by local artist Jamil Barnes. All of the project work and time was donated.



Nash-Marigold Crossing to be closed by 2009

On August 22nd the City Council took action to close the Nash and Marigold Street Crossing of Main Street. The closing will occur in 36-48 months. The decision paves the way for an urban design plan to be followed by a new streetscape, including sidewalks, streets, lampposts, street furniture, waste receptacles, and bicycle/pedestrian enhancements. The plan could also include a bike/pedestrian trail, public art, tree and flower plantings, pocket parks and other green space.

North Carolina Wesleyan College Opens

Carleton House Campus

In August, 52 NC Wesleyan students moved into the Old Carleton House. On August 30th NC Wesleyan College and the City of Rocky Mount had a well-attended ribbon-cutting ceremony. A total of 100 students will live at the Carleton House once Phase II is completed next summer. The following year, in 2007, the restaurant section will open as a student center. The presence of Wesleyan students downtown is the beginning of a critical mass of residential development that will anchor the downtown area.

Joanne's Foxy Boutique to Re-Open

In the Summer of 2005 issue of Downtown News we reported that a fire on Main Street gutted two buildings, which included one that housed the newly opened Joanne's Foxy Boutique. The store's owner, Nan Arrington-Jones, has announced that she will reopen the store at 157 SE Main, the location of the former Maus Music Center. Plans are for the store to reopen in November.

What's New Downtown

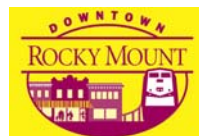
Holiday Lighting

Around Thanksgiving we will introduce a new holiday lighting program on Main Street that will shine until early January.

The **Merchant's Association** adopted bylaws at the October meeting and will have elections at the Nov. 15 meeting to take place at the Chamber of Commerce Board Room at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served for this special meeting. The Promotions Committee is exploring a few different options for public assembly events including a crafts festival, "chalk the walk day" and working with the City to show Outdoor Movies in the Spring of 2006.

Phantom Storefronts

Volunteers have created phantom storefronts, that is "dressing up" vacant storefronts. Have you seen any?



Show your support for
Downtown
Promotions and Events

Tee Shirts - \$12.00
Key Chains - \$1.00

Purchase your "T" at

Moore's Bicycle Shop, Towel Town,

Tyson's Upholstery, Davis Furniture or

The Downtown Development Office on the 5th floor of City Hall.

Available Properties

For Sale: 129 NE Main Street. 25' X 130' block-through building from Main back to N. Washington Street. Ask \$90,000. Contact John Funchess at 445-1104.

For Rent: Historically renovated offices at the People's Bank Building at Main and Tarboro Streets. Available April, 2006. Contact Ben Grinnell at (919) 956-4423.

For Rent: 114 NW Main Street. Small historically renovated storefront with mezzanine level. Contact Elizabeth Scott at 451-1400.